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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the non-final Office Action of March 30, 2005 (hereinafter "the Action"). Applicants especially appreciate the allowance of Claims 1 and 2. In response, Applicants submit that the cited reference fails to disclose or suggest, at least, all of the recitations of the pending independent claims; therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested for at least the reasons discussed hereafter.

Independent Claim 3 is Patentable

Independent Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,404,679 to Ryu et al. (hereinafter "Ryu"). Independent Claim 3 is directed to a data output circuit and recites, in part:

...
a plurality of register output selection switches respectively connected to the plurality of registers, pairs of the plurality of register output selection switches being connected by respective common active regions;
...

The Office Action cites the switches 186 of FIG. 1 and the switches 312 and 313 of FIG. 3B as corresponding to the register output selection switches recited in Claim 3. (Office Action, page 3). Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Ryu does not appear to contain any disclosure related to the design of the switches 186, 312, and/or 313. That is, Ryu does not contain any disclosure or suggestion that the switches 186, 312, and/or 313 are connected by respective common active regions.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 3 is patentable over Ryu and that Claim 4 is patentable at least per the patentability of independent Claim 3.

Independent Claim 5 is Patentable

Independent Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ryu. Independent Claim 5 is directed to a data output circuit and recites, in part:

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... a plurality of register output selection switches respectively connected to the plurality of registers via a plurality of first wires having first lengths;
a data group selection switch that is connected to the plurality of register output selection switches by a plurality of second wires having second lengths that are shorter than the first lengths; and
... (Emphasis added)

The Office Action appears to cite the switches 186 of FIG. 1 and the switches 312 and 313 of FIG. 3B as corresponding to the register output selection switches and that switches 314 of FIG. 3B correspond to the data group selection switch recited in Claim 5. (Office Action, page 4). Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Ryu does not appear to contain any disclosure related to the length of the wires used to connect the switches 314 to the switches 312/313 as compared to the length of the wires used to connect the switches 312/313 to the switches 313/311. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Ryu does not disclose or suggest at least the recitations highlighted in Claim 5 above.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 5 is patentable over Ryu.

Independent Claim 6 is Patentable

Independent Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ryu. Independent Claim 6 is directed to a data output circuit and recites, in part:

... a plurality of register output selection switches respectively connected to the plurality of registers;
a first data group selection switch that is connected to a first subset of the plurality of register output selection switches via a first line having a first length;
a second data group selection switch that is connected to a second subset of the plurality of register output selection switches via a second line having a second length that is approximately equal to the first length; and
... (Emphasis added)

The Office Action appears to cite the switches 186 of FIG. 1 and the switches 312 and 313 of FIG. 3B as corresponding to the register output selection switches and that switches 314-0 and 314-1 of FIG. 3B correspond to the first and second data group selection switches,

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respectively, recited in Claim 6. (Office Action, page 5). Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Ryu appears to contain no disclosure with respect to the length of the wiring used to connect the switches 314-0 and 314-1 to the switches 312 and 313, respectively. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Ryu does not disclose or suggest at least the recitations highlighted in Claim 6 above.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 6 is patentable over Ryu.

Independent Claim 7 is Patentable

Independent Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ryu. Independent Claim 7 is directed to a data output circuit and recites, in part:

...
a plurality of register output selection switches respectively connected
to the plurality of registers and arranged in a circular configuration;
... (Emphasis added)

The Office Action cites the switches 312 and 313 of FIG. 3B as corresponding to the register output selection switches recited in Claim 6. (Office Action, page 6). Applicants respectfully submit, however, that, in sharp contrast with the recitations of Claim 7, the switches 312 and 313 shown in FIG. 3B of Ryu are arranged in a linear configuration rather than a circular configuration. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Ryu does not disclose or suggest at least the recitations highlighted in Claim 7 above.


Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 7 is patentable over Ryu.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-entitled application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

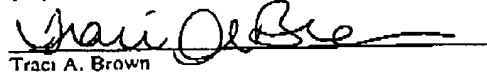
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